**Social Studies – 8th**

**Throughlines**:

* How has conflict influenced growth and change in America and the world?
* How can I use resources to increase my understanding of American and world history?

**Generative Topics & Understanding Goals**:

* Civil War
  + Westward expansion and social and economic differences sharpened the conflict over slavery which led to the break-up of the United States
  + Anti-slavery forces were active throughout the entire country leading up to and during the Civil War
  + Union and Confederate armies engaged in brutal battles
  + A number of factors led to the eventual victory of the Union troops
* Reconstruction, Expansion, Urbanization (The Changing Nation)
  + Political and social factors influenced the development of western states and the rebuilding of southern states after the Civil War
  + The rise of industrialization and immigration led to significant changes how many Americans lived
  + The United States began to become more involved in matters outside the country’s borders
* World War I
  + Long-standing differences between European nations led to the circumstances that started the first world war
  + Technological and tactical developments created a new type of warfare
  + The war was fought along multiple fronts of battle
  + The United States actively joined the war after several years
* Between the Wars
  + Decisions made in the wake of World War I laid the groundwork for ongoing conflict
  + The economy of the United States went through cycles of prosperity & optimism and depression & despair
  + The rise to power of dictators and totalitarian governments had disturbing social and political influences
* World War II
  + Military aggression led to a widespread war that spanned three continents
  + Allied and Axis confederations defined the warring sides
  + The war caused widespread devastation to life and land
  + The development of powerful weapons influenced the outcome of the war
* Post-War
  + The Cold War developed between nations with differing political viewpoints
  + In America, dissatisfaction with social and political norms led to active movements for change
  + After the end of the Cold War, the core of conflict shifted

**Performances of Understanding:**

* Classroom discussion & activities
* Projects
* Tests & quizzes
* Homework